

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 19, 2002. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 17-19, and 21-28 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 17-19, 21-24, and 26-28 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 7, 17-19, 21-24, 27, and 28 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 18, 19, and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,142 (*Kosaka*).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kosaka*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,404 (*Hashimoto et al.*). Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kosaka* '498 (Japanese Patent No. 9-18498, hereinafter referred to as *Kosaka* '498, using U.S. Patent No. 6,119,142, issued to *Kosaka* as an English translation) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,552,901 (*Kikuchi et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 7, 17-19, 21-24, 27, and 28 in terms that more clearly define the present invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is to a data communication system. The data communication system includes a connector, an operation input unit, a data transmitter, and a notification unit. The connector connects a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to the data communication system. The

operation input unit receives a manual designation manually inputted by an operator. The data transmitter transmits a document based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit. The document is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector. The notification unit, notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit and the document transmitted by the data transmitter. The notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, and also notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the document transmission upon completion of the document transmission performed by the data transmitter. In a case where user information is inputted by the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, the notification unit notifies a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that the data communication system notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit and the document transmitted by the data transmitter.

Kosaka, as discussed previously, relates to a data communication apparatus that manages information indicating that data has reached its destination. *Kosaka* discloses notifying the transmission-management information to the client in steps S40 and S42 of

Figure 8. However, the transmission-information, as depicted in Figure 3, does not contain the transmitted document that was transmitted in step S38. Figure 3 of *Kosaka* merely depicts, among other things, that the transmission-management information contains the document identifier F1 and a document attribute field F5. The document attribute field F5 denotes an attribute of the transmission document, i.e., information on whether the transmission document has been transmitted as a facsimile document data (pixel data) or code data such as printer description language, is set. Further, if the transmission document has been transmitted as a facsimile document data, an attribute of the data indicative of resolution is set; while if the transmission document has been transmitted as code data, the type of the code data is set. However, nothing has been found in *Kosaka* that discloses or suggests notifying a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit and the document transmitted by the data transmitter, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Kosaka*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 7, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, and 28 include the similar feature of the data communication system notifying a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit and the document transmitted by the data transmitter, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly,

24, 27, and 28 are also believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 17 is to a method of controlling a system that includes a data communication system for performing document communication with a destination and a data processing terminal for controlling the data communication system. The data communication system is connected to the data processing terminal via a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals. At the data communication system, the method includes inputting a designation manually entered by an operator using an operation input unit. Designating an ID based on the manual designation inputted using the operation input unit, performing document communication with an external data communication terminal in accordance with a designation inputted using the operation input unit, and notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the document communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and the document transmitted by the data communication system. At the data processing terminal, the method includes instructing the data communication system to communicate with a destination, receiving communication result information notified by the data communication system in the notifying step, and independently storing the communication result information related to the document communication based on an instruction in the instructing step and communication result information received from the data communication system in the receiving step. The notification

step notifies the data processing terminal of the communication result information related to the document communication upon completion of the document transmission performed by the data communication system, and includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted using the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the communication result information.

One important feature of Claim 17 is notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and the document transmitted by the data communication.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the invention as defined by independent Claim 17, particularly with respect to notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and the document transmitted by the data communication.

As discussed above, *Kosaka* '498 (using *Kosaka* as an English translation) discloses notifying the transmission-management information to the client in steps S40 and S42 of Figure 8. However, the transmission-information, as depicted in Figure 3, does not contain the transmitted document that was transmitted in step S38. Nothing has been found in *Kosaka* that discloses or suggests notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID,

via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and the document transmitted by the data communication.

For at least this reason, independent Claim 17 is believed clearly patentable over *Kosaka '498*, taken alone.

Kikuchi et al. is cited in the Office Action as remedying *Kosaka '498's* deficiency of failing to teach of independently storing the communication result information related to the data communication based on an instruction in the instruction step and communication result information received from the data communication system in the receiving step. However, *Kikuchi et al.* is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of *Kosaka '498*, with regard to notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and the document transmitted by the data communication, as recited in Claim 17.

Therefore, even if *Kosaka '498* and *Kikuchi et al.* were to be combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, assuming such combination would even be permissible, the resulting combination also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is patentable over *Kosaka* '498 and *Kikuchi et al.*, whether considered separately or in combination, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Eight Times Amended) A data communication system comprising:
 - a connector, adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to said data communication system;
 - an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator;
 - a data transmitter, adapted to transmit [data] a document based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, the [data] document being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include said connector; and
 - a notification unit, adapted to notify a data processing terminal, via said connector, of transmission result information representing a [data] document transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit and the [data] document transmitted by said data transmitter,
 - wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of said data communication system,
 - wherein said notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed by said data transmitter, and

wherein said notification unit notifies, in a case where user information is inputted by said operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

2. (Twice Amended) A data communication system according to claim 1, wherein said data transmitter transmits [data] the document based on a second designation from the data processing terminal connected to said data communication system via said connector.

7. (Seven Times Amended) A data communication system comprising:
a connector, adapted to connect a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to said data communication system;
an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator, said operation input unit being a part of said data communication system;

a designation unit, adapted to designate an ID, representing a user's data processing terminal on the network connected by said connector, from the manual designation inputted by way of an operation of said operation input unit;

a data transmitter, adapted to transmit [data] a document based on a designation inputted by said operation input unit, the [data] document being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include said connector;

a notification unit, adapted to notify the user's data processing terminal on the network connected by said connector corresponding to the ID designated by said designation unit, via said connector, of information representing a [data] document transmission performed by said data transmitter based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit and the [data] document transmitted by said data transmitter;

a determination unit, adapted to determine whether or not the ID is designated by said designation unit; and

a controller, adapted to control said notification unit in accordance with a determination result of said determination unit,

wherein said notification unit notifies the user's data processing terminal of information related to the [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed by said data transmitter.

10. (Amended) A data communication system according to claim 7, wherein said data transmitter transmits [data] the document, based on the designated ID, from the data processing terminal connected to said data communication system via said connector.

17. (Eight Times Amended) A method of controlling a system that includes a data communication system for performing [data] document communication with a destination and a data processing terminal for controlling the data communication system, the data communication system being connected to the data processing terminal via a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals, said method comprising the steps of:

at the data communication system:

inputting a designation manually entered by an operator using an operation input unit;

designating an ID based on the manual designation inputted using the operation input unit;

performing [data] document communication with an external data communication terminal in accordance with a designation inputted using the operation input unit; and

notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, of communication result information representing the [data] document communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and [the data] a document transmitted by said data communication system, and

at the data processing terminal:

instructing the data communication system to communicate with a destination;

receiving communication result information notified by the data communication system in said notifying step; and

independently storing the communication result information related to the [data] document communication based on an instruction in said instructing step and communication result information received from the data communication system in said receiving step,

wherein said notification step notifies the data processing terminal of the communication result information related to the [data] document communication upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed by the data communication system, and

wherein said notification step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted using the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the communication result information.

18. (Eight Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system connected to a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals via a connector, the program comprising:

program code for an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator using an operation unit;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting [data] a document based on the designation manually inputted in said input step, the [data] document being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector; and

program code for a notification step of notifying a data processing terminal, via the connector, of transmission result information representing a [data] document communication performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted in

the input step and the [data] document transmitted by said transmission step and in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system,

wherein the notification step notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed in the transmission step, and

wherein said notification step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted using the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

19. (Eight Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system connected to a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals via a connector, the program comprising:

program code for an input step of receiving a designation manually inputted by an operator using an operation unit that is a part of the data communication system;

program code for a designation step of designating an ID, representing a user's data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector, from the manually inputted designation;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting [data] a document based on a designation manually inputted in the input step using the operation input unit, the

[data] document being transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector;

program code for a notification step of notifying the user's data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector corresponding to the designated ID, via the connector, of information representing a [data] document communication performed in the transmission step based on the designation manually inputted in the input step and the [data] document transmitted by said transmission step;

program code for a determination step of determining whether the ID is designated in the designation step; and

program code for a control step of controlling the notification step in accordance with a determination result of the determination step,

wherein the notification step notifies the user's data processing terminal of information related to a [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed in the transmission step.

21. (Five Times Amended) A data communication system that communicates with an external device via a transmission path, and that communicates with a data processing terminal, said system comprising:

a signal path through which said data communication system communicates with the data processing terminal, said signal path being a path different from the transmission path;

an input section through which an operator manually inputs a designation to the data communication system;

a transmitter that, based upon the manually inputted designation, transmits [data] a document through the transmission path to the external device; and

a notifier that, because of a change in state of said data communication system, notifies the data processing terminal through said signal path of transmission result information corresponding to the [data] document transmission by said transmitter based upon the manually inputted designation and the data transmitted by said transmitter,

wherein said notifier notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed by said transmitter, and

wherein said notifier notifies, in a case where user information is inputted by said input unit with an address of the external device, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

22. (Five Times Amended) A method of controlling a data communication system that communicates with an external device and with a data processing terminal, said method comprising the steps of:

manually inputting a designation to the data communication system;

transmitting [data] a document to the external device via a transmission path, based upon the manually inputted designation, said transmitting step producing transmission result information; and

notifying, as a consequence of a change in state of the data communication system and via a signal path that does not correspond to the transmission path, the data processing terminal of the transmission result information and the [data] document transmitted by said transmitting step,

wherein said notifying step notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed in said transmitting step, and

wherein said notifying step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted in said inputting step with an address of the external device, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

23. (Five Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method for controlling a data communication system that communicates with an external device and a data processing terminal, the program comprising:

code for an input step of inputting a manual designation to the data communication system;

code for a transmission step of transmitting [data] a document to the external device via a transmission path, based upon the inputted manual designation, the transmitting step producing transmission result information; and

code for a notification step of notifying, as a consequence of a change in state of the data communication system and via a signal path that is not the transmission path,

the data processing terminal of the transmission result information and the [data] document transmitted by said transmission step,

wherein the notification step includes notifying the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the [data] document transmission upon completion of the [data] document transmission performed in the transmission step, and

wherein the notification step includes notifying, in a case where user information is inputted in the input step with an address of the external device, a data processing terminal corresponding the user information of the transmission result information.

24. (Amended) A data communication system, comprising:

a connector, adapted to connect a data processing terminal to said data communication system;

an operation input unit, adapted to receive a manual designation manually inputted by an operator;

an input unit, adapted to input a [data] document to be transmitted to a destination;

a data transmitter, adapted to transmit the [data] document inputted by said input unit based on the designation inputted by said operation input unit, the [data] document being transmitted to the destination via a line that does not include said connector; and

a notification unit, adapted to notify the data processing terminal, via said connector, of the transmission result information representing a [data] document transmission performed by said transmitter based on the designation input by said operation input

unit and the [data] document transmitted by said data transmitter in accordance with a transmission operation.

26. (Amended) A data communication system according to claim 23, further comprising a reader which reads an image on a document and generates [image data] an image document, wherein said input unit inputs the [image data] image document from said reader and said data transmitter transmits the [image data] image document inputted by said input unit.

27. (Amended) A method of controlling a data communication system, said method comprising the steps of:

a reception step, of receiving a manual designation, manually inputted by an operator;

an input step, of inputting [data] a document to be transmitted to a destination;

a transmission step, of transmitting the inputted [data] document to the destination via a line that does not include a connector adapted to connect a data processing terminal to said data communication system, said inputted [data] document is based on the received manual designation; and

a notification step, of notifying the data processing terminal of the transmission result information representing a [data] document transmission based on the

inputted designation input and the [data] document transmitted in accordance with a transmission operation, via said connector.

28. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for implementing a method of controlling a data communication system, said program comprising:

program code for a reception step, of receiving a manual designation, manually inputted by an operator;

program code for an input step, of inputting [data] a document to be transmitted to a destination;

program code for a transmission step, of transmitting the inputted [data] document to the destination via a line that does not include a connector adapted to connect a data processing terminal to said data communication system, said inputted [data] document is based on the received manual designation; and

program code for a notification step, of notifying the data processing terminal of the transmission result information representing a [data] document transmission based on the inputted designation input and the [data] document transmitted in accordance with a transmission operation, via said connector.

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